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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXV, No. 61

Section 1

December 27, 1939

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Secretary Wallace defended the certificate plan of processing taxes yesterday as a method of stimulating business activity and thereby helping rather than hurting consumers, says an Associated Press report. The Agriculture Department head declared that the plan, instead of being regressive, would be "progressive because it would benefit the low income farm group through improved prices for agricultural products supplied in large part to the higher income non-farm groups.

He said that the tax was designed to bring about parity relationships between prices and incomes of agriculture and other industries. "Back of this objective," he asserted, "is the recognition of the fact, repeatedly demonstrated by actual experience, that the maintenance of farm income at a parity level means more jobs for industrial workers, more purchasing power in the hands of consumers, increased business activity and an improved condition of the Federal Treasury."

1940 SUGAR PROGRAM

Secretary Wallace announced yesterday that as a result of President Roosevelt's proclamation under the sugar act of 1937 reestablishing the sugar quota system for the year 1940, immediate steps would be taken to initiate the 1940 sugar program in all domestic areas. Sugar quotas were suspended by the President on September 11, 1939, and on September 29 Secretary Wallace stated that "in view of the suspension of quotas, no program or payment under the provisions of Title III of the sugar act is in effect or contemplated at this time for the 1940 crop in any producing area."

Growers who wish to receive the conditional payments authorized by the sugar act of 1937 are required to meet certain conditions which include non-employment of child labor, payment of fair and reasonable wages to farm labor, prevention of erosion and improvement of soil fertility, compliance with grower "proportionate shares," and, in the case of growers who are also processors, payment of fair and reasonable prices for beets or cane bought from other growers. Before making determinations with respect to the wage and price conditions of payment, the Secretary is required to hold public hearings and conduct investigations.

TRADE PACTS

Secretary Hull will welcome a thorough Congressional investigation of the reciprocal trade agreements program, he said yesterday. The right of the President to conclude these agreements will expire by limitation in June, unless renewed. (New York Times.)

Cotton in "The utilization of cotton fabric for interior and
Housing exterior coverings as well as in the actual construction
Construction of low cost homes, has now progressed to the point where
 specially prepared products are scheduled for commercial
production early in 1940," says Charles K. Everett, Cotton Textile In-
stitute, in Manufacturers Record (December). "...The housing and con-
struction industry holds, perhaps, the greatest promise for effecting an
increased consumption of cotton in the United States. Throughout the
country today housing activities center around low cost structures. Various
federal agencies in encouraging the erection of new homes in urban, sub-
urban and rural developments are giving unprecedented impetus to the in-
troduction of new economies in construction that constantly attracts to
the potentialities of cotton more serious attention...

"The first demonstration cotton house, built at Northport, New York,
more than five years ago, has in itself proven the soundness of the idea
of using cotton duck over conventional wood sheathing in place of clap-
boards, shingles, brick, or stucco veneer. There has not been a single
fault in the fabric facing on the walls, which has remained securely in
place without a wrinkle or blister in its surface. It has been found to
be rain proof and weather proof. Since then other demonstration houses
have been erected in other parts of the country under both private and
public sponsorship...

"While 'cotton houses' of varying types erected to date have been
those where the fabric has been applied on the job, it is likely that the
greatest use of fabric for facing outside walls will come in its applica-
tion at the plant producing prefabricated units, such as wall sections.
For that possibility plywood panels appear to be in a vantage position...
Low cost, yet appropriately decorated, fabrics for interior walls of homes
have been lately advanced by the development of a new permanent chemical
finish that is both spot proof and stain proof...There will be placed on
the market in 1940 a steel wire mesh lath with a cotton fabric backing,
which will make possible plaster walls and partitions with the fabric serv-
ing to hold in place the barest amount of plaster required until it hardens...
Another new use for cotton is in the application of sheeting for the res-
toration and repair of roofs in conjunction with asphalt..."

Radiation Ultraviolet and infrared radiations can have many
Uses on uses on the electrified farm of the future, if current be-
the Farm comes cheap enough and suitable equipment is developed, L.
 C. Porter of the General Electric Company declared recently
at the meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. Infra-
red rays are best known for their heating effects, he said. Adaptations
of these heaters can readily be made for use in poultry houses, in barns
to keep newborn animals warm, and in quick hay drying. Ultraviolet rays
have certain physiological effects, as in activating sterols to produce
vitamin D and in checking plant growth. The wellknown germicidal effects
of ultraviolet rays still await a number of possible applications on the
farm, Mr. Porter said. (Science Service.)

Transmission of Farming Writing on the transmission of farming as an occupation, in Rural Sociology (December) W. A. Anderson, Cornell University, makes the following conclusions: "Farming as an occupation is transmitted from father to son in larger proportions than other occupations. There is a decreasing transmission of farming from fathers to sons in succeeding generations...Within the same family line there is a decided decrease in the extent to which farming is transmitted through three generations...As the number of sons in the farm family increases, there is a definite increase in the percentage of families in which one or more sons follow farming as an occupation..."

"There is little entrance into farming from nonfarming occupations, but farming is largely self-perpetuating. Brothers may influence brothers in their choice of farming as a life work. Farming and nonfarming occupations are transmitted most frequently to the oldest son in the family...Farmers' sons enter the professions and the business fields in practically as large proportions as nonfarmers."

Barge Grain Shipping Barge loading elevators are increasing in number on the Illinois, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, says Grain & Feed Journals (December 13). Says President W. H. Allen, of the Cooperative Allied Grain Dealers Corporation: "Few suitable sites for barge loading elevators on the Illinois River remain available..." Early shipping by barge was hampered because the number of barges were insufficient to supply the demand, but the supply is increasing. What lies ahead for barge loading elevators and for inland elevators that face their competition or sell and transport grain to them by truck is contingent upon factors like maintenance of river channels, national legislation to control or hamper river traffic, rail rate adjustments to meet river competition. To date river traffic has shown a steady growth.

Surplus Apple Purchasing The Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation has reported the purchase of approximately 4,500,000 bushels of surplus apples so far under the program announced October 3. The average price paid was 70 cents a bushel. The announcement was made by H. C. Albin, chief of the purchase and distribution division of the corporation, at a conference of representatives of apple growers and the Extension Services from 18 apple-producing states with Department officials. The conference was called by the general crops section of the corporation and the Extension Service to discuss the apple situation and a program to suit the industry for the remainder of the marketing season. Under the present program, Mr. Albin reported, about 5 1/2 pounds per month of the apples bought have been distributed to each of more than 4,000,000 needy people through relief agencies in nearly all states. Since buying was started, purchases have averaged about 500,000 bushels a week. The purchases and distribution were carried on with every effort to avoid interference with normal channels of trade. Limited to apples of U.S. Combination grade or better, the purchases have included 55 percent of U.S. No. 1, 26 percent of U.S. Combination grade and 19 percent of State Fancy grade in the Western States.

**AAA Grants
of Aid**

Preliminary figures show that farmers cooperating in the 1939 agricultural conservation program received 660,610 tons of lime and 136,736 tons of concentrated superphosphate under the AAA grant of aid project, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration has announced. In addition to the phosphate and lime distributed under the project, 4,275,895 pounds of seeds, principally clover and alfalfa, were furnished to farmers in drought areas of the East Central, Northeast and Southern regions; and 1,292,341 pounds of Austrian winter pea and hairy vetch seeds were made available to farmers in the Northwest, where these seeds are produced, as a means of increasing the supply of winter legume seeds that will be available for use in Southeastern States in the fall of 1940.

These materials and seeds were furnished by the AAA, in lieu of conservation payments to cooperating farmers for carrying out soil-building practices under the agricultural conservation program. The superphosphate was applied to permanent pastures and in connection with the seeding of legumes and grasses. Only a very limited quantity was used for these purposes before the agricultural conservation program in 1936. The increase in the phosphate and lime used in 1939 was due in part to the expanded area in which the materials were made available and in part to the better understanding on the part of farmers of the value of these practices.

**Remodeling
Farm Homes**

H. E. Wichers, Kansas State College, speaking at the recent meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, said there were three important points in farm home design--front door facing the drive, efficient work room and central rear hall. "There are thousands of farmers," he said, "who are not ready to build new homes, but who want and can afford some improvements. Many of these homes are more than 25 years old, the average life of a farm house. We have one project of this kind under way in Iowa, in a section in which the whole remodeling program cannot be done at one time. It has to be done piece by piece because the farmer is conservative and will not do more than he can pay for. He refuses to take a chance on going broke on a building improvement." Mr. Wichers urged that remodeling programs be developed in a manner that will permit farmers to do the work in installments, always keeping in mind the three essentials of good farm house design. (American Lumberman, December 16.)

**Michigan
Rural Zones**

With the adoption of county zoning ordinances by Marquette and Delta Counties in its upper peninsula, Michigan joins Wisconsin and California in regulating the use of rural lands, reports the American Society of Planning Officials. The new rural zoning ordinance has divided the county for three types of land use: forestry, recreation and unrestricted (where farming can be done). People now on the land may continue whatever use they are making of it, but no new use contrary to the ordinance will be permitted. The ordinance is administered by the state and county planning commissions. (National Municipal Review, December.)

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December 28, 1939

WHEAT CROP PROSPECTS

Wheat prospects in the United States for 1940 now indicate that the crop may be smaller than domestic requirements for the 1940-41 marketing season. If exports for the remainder of the present season are small, the carryover on July 1, 1940, probably will be larger than that on July 1, 1939, but not enough larger to fully offset the probable reduction in the crop below domestic requirements for next year. The carryover on July 1, 1941, probably will be over 200 million bushels. On July 1, 1939, it was 254 million bushels.

Winter wheat production of 399 million bushels was indicated December 21 by the crop report as of December 1. Spring wheat acreage may be increased about 10 percent, if present indications are borne out, and this acreage with average yields would result in a crop of about 200 million bushels. These totals for the winter and spring wheat crops would give a combined harvest about 60 million bushels smaller than the 660 million bushels disappearance forecast for 1940-41.

World wheat supplies, excluding the U.S.S.R. and China, for the year beginning July 1, 1939, are indicated to be about 255 million bushels more than for the preceding year. World stocks of old wheat on July 1, estimated at about 1190 million bushels, were about 590 million bushels more than a year earlier. World wheat production is now estimated at 4,252 million bushels, which is about 335 million bushels below the record production of 1938.

ADMINISTRATION ORGANIZATION

A new organization to advance the science and art of public administration was launched yesterday in Washington under the name of the American Society for Public Administration, says the Washington Star. As explained by Dr. William E. Mosher, dean of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and chairman of the organization committee of the new society, it is designed to be a "clearing house" for the ideas, experiences and experiments in government along all levels from the smallest to the Federal Government.

WILD LIFE DIVISION

Secretary Ickes yesterday transferred the Wild Life Division of the National Park Service to the Biological Survey and the Bureau of Fisheries, both of which were transferred to the Interior Department last July. The transfer was made in accordance with President Roosevelt's reorganization plan to coordinate federal activities and effect economies. (Press.)

Sawdust
Plastic

"Chemists of the United States Forest Products Laboratory," says Business Week (December 23) "have produced from waste wood and taken a patent for the free use of the public on some molding plastics of great industrial promise. One reason why these plastics are not now in large-scale production is that, according to long-established government policy, anybody with a legitimate use can get a patent license from the Secretary of Agriculture...These processes, already licensed, are now being studied by private industries. Many of these are looking for improvement patents that will limit competition at least enough to justify building plants. The basic problem of the researchers at Madison was to break down the mortar-like bond between lignin and cellulose. Starting out with ordinary sawdust waste from wood-working plants they achieved this...The process produces a black, lustrous, dense substance which can easily be sawed, turned, or otherwise machined. The material has adequate tensile and compressive strengths for most uses, is an excellent electrical insulator, absorbs little water...

"What is really significant is that its cost is around 3 to 4 cents per pound, about one-fourth the price of the better known synthetics. Practically unlimited sawdust and hog waste are available for raw material. Thus far hardwood waste has been used to best advantage; softwood waste, which has not been intensively investigated as yet, requires some modification of the process. Forest Products Laboratory ^{researchers} tell the public their plastic's merits and limitations, not to guess about its future usefulness. One limit is its single color, black; but its surface can be modified by pressing in foil, veneer, or metallic powder, and it takes paint well...It seems best adapted to positive or semi-positive molds for large pieces where the quantity of plastic material is a large part of the finished product cost. Laboratory researchers think it less likely to replace existing plastics than to open new fields of its own..."

Mole Cricket
Parasites

"Since February 1936, the Puerto Rico Experiment Station at Rio Piedras has been engaged in collecting and shipping mole cricket parasites, with the purpose of establishing them in Puerto Rico, to aid in the control of the Puerto Rican mole cricket, or 'changa," *Scapteriscus vicinus* Scudder," reports Luis F. Martorell, of the station, in *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* (December). "At the beginning of the work, Dr. G. N. Wolcott traveled in various countries, such as Trinidad, Haiti, the Guianas, Venezuela and Brazil. Except in Brazil these searches were unsuccessful, because *Larra americana* Sauss. was not present at all or not in sufficient quantity to make shipments of value. Later on the author was sent to Brazil and exceptionally good results were obtained. Dr. Wolcott returned to Brazil after that and better success was obtained as the methods were further perfected..."

Trade Bars

Harvard Business Review (Winter) contains "Trade Barriers Within the United States," by Ralph Cassady, Jr., of the University of California.

Civil Service The Civil Service Commission announces the following
Examinations examinations: No. 8, unassembled, statistical supervisor,
 \$3,200; No. 9, assembled, junior poultry aid, \$1,440,
Bureau of Animal Industry. Applications must be on file not later than
 the following dates: (a) January 23, 1940, if received from states other
 than those named in b: (b) January 26, 1940, if received from the follow-
 ing states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New
 Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

Futures Before leaving Harvard this autumn to become Chancellor
Trading of the University of Kansas, Deane W. Malott completed a
and Prices study of the effect of futures operations on the cash prices
 of agricultural raw commodities," says Harvard Business Re-
view (Winter). "The purpose of the study was to ascertain whether such
 trading caused price trend dislocations that were not found in the prices
 of commodities for which futures contracts were not available. His analy-
 sis and conclusions are presented in the article, "Does Futures Trading
 Influence Prices?" The last paragraph of the article says: "In summary,
 this study, incomplete and fragmentary as regards the whole subject of
 the relation of cash to futures prices on the organized commodity ex-
 changes, discloses no trace of influence on prices attributable to fu-
 tures contract trading or to speculation in futures contracts. Rather
 does it appear that the futures market relation to the cash market is by
 virtue of the pricing mechanism thereby created, which mechanism exerts
 no demonstrated influence on the supply and demand factors entering into
 the economics of price."

Moisture One outstanding feature of the weather of the past
for Crops week was the moderate to generous precipitation that oc-
 curred over large areas that have been dry for many weeks,
 according to the Weather and Crop Bulletin. In the Southern States from
 Arkansas and Louisiana eastward to the Atlantic Ocean rainfall was gen-
 erous to locally heavy, relieving the drought generally and conditioning
 the soil in preparation for spring plantings. However, in the extreme
 Southeast, including southeastern Georgia and Florida, rainfall was light
 and unfavorable dryness continues.

In the Great Plains area the general outlook has improved markedly
 in many central and most southern districts. Moderate rains were wide-
 spread in the South, while generous snows occurred in many central dis-
 tricts. Kansas had from 6 to 8 inches of snow over the western half of
 the state, while eastern Colorado had from 5 to 12 inches. There were
 general snows over much of Wyoming, while Nebraska had around half an inch
 of precipitation. However, the northern plains north of Nebraska, and also
 the upper Mississippi Valley, had but little precipitation and droughty
 conditions continued. Preceding the snowfall there were duststorms in the
 southwestern plains, with some severe local soil erosion by high winds.

Apple Act Michigan's apple act, which imposes a tax of 1 cent
 a bushel on the state's principal crop, was ruled invalid
 recently by Judge Fremont Evans. Income from the levy was to have been
 used for advertising and to finance research. (Press.)

Conservation Programs "Secretary Wallace is giving commendable emphasis to the most constructive feature of the Administration's agricultural policy," says an editorial in the Washington Post (December 27). "He has announced changes in the AAA program designed to coordinate and intensify land conservation efforts...The Nation must guard against destruction of the resources in which our national economy has its roots. No administration at Washington can afford to ignore Secretary Wallace's warning that 'land is still wearing out faster than we can restore it.'

"Mr. Wallace's extensive powers over agriculture permit him to attack the abuse of land on many fronts. It is good news to learn that these powers will be employed more effectively in 1940 to promote the cause of conservation...AAA payments to farmers next year will be used as an incentive to conservation practices, even more so than in the past. Performance on the individual farm will also be more carefully checked, and the Department of Agriculture will supply farmers with numerous plants that help to keep the soil in place and restore dwindling fertility..."

Drug Control Tightened Drugs known to be dangerous in self medication have been driven from the market or put under adequate safeguards in the last year, W. G. Campbell, chief of the Food and Drug Administration, stated in his annual report. Care has been taken, however, that administrative regulations do not unduly hamper reputable physicians in using dangerous drugs of admitted therapeutic value under standard practice. Eyelash dyes containing paraphenylenediamine, ammoniacal silver salts and pyrogallol, and slenderizers containing dinitrocresol were among the first victims of the drive that was started after enactment of the food, drug and cosmetic act of 1938, Mr. Campbell reported. (New York Times.)

Farmers' Bulletins For the family purchasing agent, and also the man of the family, two of Uncle Sam's latest publications will be interesting, says Watson Davis, in Science Parade. "Judging Fabric Quality," Farmers' Bulletin 1831 of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, tells all about how to select good buys in cotton, silk, wool, linen, rayon and other fibers. "Cotton Shirts for Men and Boys," Farmers' Bulletin 1837, tells you how to put a shirt through the intelligence test, in order that you may separate the good from the bad. They are a nickel apiece from the Superintendent of Documents. By the way, the Government Printing Office now produces bulletins of such typographic quality, pleasing paper and good printing that they compare favorably with typical private publications.

Better Packing American manufacturers and exporters attempting to supply Latin-American markets formerly supplied by European producers must take great care in the packing and crating of their goods, it was said recently by Thomas E. Lyons, chief of the transportation division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. There have been a number of recent complaints, he said, from Latin-American importers because North American firms have been rushing goods to the market inadequately packed. (Press.)

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December 29, 1939

WALLACE ON PUBLIC POLICIES

Changing modern conditions must be accompanied by shifting national policies to meet them, whether the changed conditions be caused by war abroad or by the growth of the United States to maturity, Secretary Wallace said last night in a speech before a joint session of the American Political Science Association and the Society for Public Administration. "In a mature nation," he said, "government inevitably plays a greater part than in a young nation." As a mature nation, Mr. Wallace continued, this country faces among others three basic problems caused by the using up of land frontiers, the shift between 1914 and 1920 of the position of the United States from a debtor to a creditor nation, and developments in technology which upset the age-old balance between agriculture and cities.

The exhaustion of land frontiers, he said, created a need for conservation and developed problems of population centralization, as well as monopolies which must be studied and handled by the government. The change in the fiscal position of the government to that of creditor of the world, he went on, made of Latin America "one of our most challenging frontiers." "It is clear," he said, "that we must give up our creditor position after long years of suffering, or we must use it in such a way as to increase the productivity of those nations to whom we are willing to loan and from whom we are willing to receive goods..."

The Secretary said much of the reason for unemployment lay in the application of technology to agriculture. "With full use of our mechanical power," Mr. Wallace declared, "we can produce our present supplies of farm products with 5,000,000 fewer people living on the land, and our present supplies of city products with 20,000,000 fewer people living in the cities." (New York Times.)

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Public reaction to the food stamp plan, now in use in several communities, indicates that "a large majority thinks it is a good thing, at least at present," the American Farm Economic Association was told yesterday by Frederick V. Waugh of the Department of Agriculture, according to a Philadelphia report to the New York Times. He said that an extension of the plan throughout the country "probably would not affect dealers' margins much." "If anything," he added, "they would probably increase slightly because average retail prices of food would rise slightly. Evidence indicates that when food prices advance, dealers' absolute margins advance somewhat, but their percentage margins decline."

B.A.E. Work
in Land-Use
Planning

Progress of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in "bringing farmer opinion to bear upon the formulation of agricultural programs" has been outlined by H. R. Tolley, chief of the bureau, in his annual report. "The participation and interest of farmers and state officials in these phases of the work has been enthusiastic," Mr. Tolley said, "and reports received from many sections of the country indicate that a wide variety of benefits are being and will be achieved for agriculture through the operation of the county planning program." Although much of the bureau's state and local planning to date has been organizational, working relationships have been clarified in understandings with 45 of the land grant colleges, the report said. Agreements covering the details of the first year's work are being entered into with these colleges and the bureau maintains a representative in each state who works closely with agencies in the general planning.

The three major steps in county planning are the preparatory, intensive planning and unified county programs. The preparatory work, designed to acquaint county agents and local planning committees with land-use planning, began in about 830 counties during the year covered by the report. Intensive planning, involving area mapping and classification, and immediate and long-time land-use plans for the county, was undertaken in 447 counties representing the major type-of-farming areas in each state. Forty-four counties in 39 states were selected for the development of unified county programs, which involves the translation of land-use plans into action. Two other states have tentatively selected counties for this work.

Mr. Tolley also reported that program discussion and study had now become a function of the bureau. Other activities include cooperative research in planning and adjustments in general land use and classification. The report also summarized the bureau's work on estimation of farm income, farm values and mortgage debt, short-term credit, farm taxes and local government. Studies included crop insurance, food stamp plan, flaxseed and the tariff, sugar, citrus fruit, cotton, price fixing, foreign trade in meats, marketing trends, market needs in the Southeast, milk-marketing policies, marketing costs and charges, cotton prices, new outlets for farm products, freight rates and transportation.

Cotton
Twine

R. J. Cheatham, chief of the cotton processing division of the Southern Regional Research Laboratory, reports that the Department has developed a new cotton twine that has proved satisfactory in preliminary tests in the actual handling of mail. Treatment of the twine with a sizing mixture containing a small amount of pine-tar oil (to keep down mildew) and drying under tension removes most of the stretch and improves the strength. Uncle Sam as postal clerk uses carloads of twine each year for tying bundles of mail.

Jute twine has usually sold at less than half the price of cotton twine, but when a year ago the price for cotton twine was only little more than 25 percent higher than that for jute twine, the cotton utilization research section of the Department tried to develop a cotton twine

that would have the required physical properties and be competitive with jute twine. The new cotton twine runs about 1,350 yards to the pound, as compared with about 850 yards to the pound of jute twine, so a slightly higher price for cotton twine would be offset by the increased yardage.

New Wood Burning Stove Development of a new type wood burning stove, capable of heating two or three rooms and requiring filling only twice a day, is regarded by New England foresters as bringing new hope to farm woodlots which have long suffered for lack of a suitable market for cordwood, says a Science Service report. The new stove, developed by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association in cooperation with Prof. Lauren E. Seeley, Yale heating expert, burns wood at an estimated 90 percent efficiency. The heater operates on the principle of "destructive distillation," burning both gas and charcoal formed in its operation.

A cord of hardwood has fuel value approximately equal to a ton of hard coal. Savings effected by the use of wood fuel may help woodlot owners to remove inferior growth from their forests, thus improving the remaining trees which will eventually be used for lumber. The heater will hold about 2 1/4 cubic feet of wood, or more than 50 pounds. Small diameter trimmings from sawmill operations or from "weeding" the family woodlot are recommended in preference to the larger chunks commonly used in wood stoves. Professor Seeley estimates that the heater will generate about 40,000 b.t.u./hr. for an 8-hour period without attention.

Long-Range Planning for Farmers Writing under the heading, "Washington Works," Bruce Bliven, editor of the New Republic, writes in the December 27 issue on "long-range thinking about the farmer." "At the Department of Agriculture in Washington," he says in part, "some highly competent experts spend most of their time thinking about the future of the American farm...The men who speak for our six or seven million farm families wish very much that Congress would stop looking at the agricultural situation as an emergency and begin to think of it as a permanent problem...The job of giving the American farmer, as far as is possible, his fair share of the national income, represents not only justice to the farmer but to everybody else, since you can't build a healthy nation on a sick agriculture...Our best efforts do not prevent surpluses in certain products, and as to a few, the Department has reluctantly embarked upon a program of subsidizing exports...As soon as possible it will be stopped and the Department will be far happier when this happens. Meanwhile domestic dumping is also being used and is on a far different moral footing. The F.S.C.C. has given away large amounts of food to people on relief to supplement their diet. This plan has now been modified into the food stamp scheme...Whatever you may think of it, you cannot go back of the argument that the 20,000,000 people now receiving public aid must be given enough food to keep them healthy; our national well-being, after all, is our No. 1 asset...The Department is now working on a simplified form of processing tax (certificates)...You will hear a good deal more about it in the near future..."

**Feed Grain
Prices Up**

Recent substantial advances in feed grain prices reflect the influence of the drought throughout much of the Midwest, poor prospects for the 1940 winter wheat crop, and reduced supplies of fall and winter forage crops, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The marked improvement in domestic industrial production and income of consumers during the past two months has also been a contributing factor.

In mid-December market prices of corn and barley were near the peaks for the year reached in September, and the price of oats not only was above the September peak but was also the highest since July 1937. Prices of all feed grains are now above the prices at this time in 1938, despite the larger supplies of corn and barley. High protein feed prices have advanced substantially since mid-October, while wheat millfeeds and gluten feed have advanced moderately.

**Progress
in Dairy
Industry**

O. E. Reed, Chief of the Bureau of Dairy Industry, in his annual report, calls attention to two increasing practices in dairy farming that will lower the cost of milk production. "In the last few years," Mr. Reed reports, "two trends have become apparent in dairy farming, both of which have long been advocated by the bureau as essential for greater economy in milk production. One is the increasing use of home-grown feeds, especially roughage crops. The other is the wider use of production records as a guide to breeding."

The bureau report also reviews the work done in developing fundamental information for improving the quality of dairy products, developing new merchandising methods, and finding profitable ways to utilize the byproducts of dairy manufacture.

**Manganese
for Citrus**

Messrs. Parker, Southwick, and Chapman, of the Citrus (Calif.) Experiment Station and Extension Service (Ventura County) contribute a preliminary report on the response of citrus trees to manganese applications, in the California Citrograph (January). For many years, they say, investigators at the station have studied the use of manganese salts in attempting to determine the cause of unsatisfactory condition or performance of citrus trees, and now impetus has been given this work by recent observations and reports from Florida and New Zealand of benefits to citrus from applications of manganese.

**1,000-Bale
Cotton "Belt"**

"One thousand bales of long staple cotton are being woven into a special fabric in a cotton mill in Lagrange, Georgia, to provide the backbone for a 9.6-mile conveyor belt system, longest ever constructed, to convey aggregates for Shasta dam of the Great Central Valley of California federal flood-control project," says Farm Machinery and Equipment (December). "The conveyor will haul sand and gravel from a plant of the construction company to a point almost 10 miles away near the site of the Shasta project..."

